Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education
Coordinated and partially funded by the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College

http://www.liberalarts.wabash.edu/study-overview/
WNS Overview: Multi-Cohort Design

- Fall 2006 Cohort (19 institutions)
- Fall 2007 Cohort (8 institutions)
- Fall 2008 Cohort (26 institutions)
WNS Overview: Longitudinal Design

- **Enter college**
  - Gather student background information
  - Give students outcome measures

- **End 1st year**
  - Ask students about their college experiences
  - Give students outcome measures

- **2nd year**

- **3rd year**

- **4th year**
  - Ask students about their college experiences
  - Give students outcome measures
Instruments: CAAP

- Effective Reasoning and Problem-Solving / Critical Thinking Skills
  - Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP)
  - CAAP instrument developed by ACT
  - Administered to ½ of each cohort
Inquiry and Lifelong Learning
- Need for Cognition (NFC)
- Positive Attitudes Toward Literacy Scale (PATL)
Moral Reasoning Ability

- Defining Issues Test 2 (DIT-2)
- Instrument based on Kohlberg’s Theory of Moral Development / Rest’s Revised Theory of Moral Development
- Administered to ½ of each cohort
Instruments: Ryff Scales

- Psychological Well-Being
  - Ryff Scales of Psychological Well-Being (PWB)
    - Self-acceptance
    - Environmental mastery
    - Positive relations with others
    - Personal growth
    - Purpose in life
    - Autonomy
  - Measures of physical well-being
Intercultural Effectiveness

- Miville-Guzman Universality-Diversity Scale (M-GUDS)
- Openness to Diversity/Challenge Scale (ODC)
Leadership

- Socially Responsible Leadership Scale (SRLS)
  - Consciousness of self
  - Congruence
  - Commitment
  - Collaboration
  - Common purpose
  - Controversy with civility
  - Citizenship
Instruments: Additional Measures

- **Additional Measures**
  - Orientations toward life and career (items from CIRP survey)
    - Contributions to the Arts
    - Political and social involvement
    - Professional success
    - Contribution to science
  - Political-orientation
  - Academic motivation
  - NSSE
  - Wabash Study Student Experiences Survey (WSES)
Personal and Social Responsibility
Institutional Inventory
PSRI Overview

- Survey instrument was designed for the AAC&U initiative Core Commitments: Educating Students For Personal and Social Responsibility

  (see http://www.aacu.org/core_commitments/)

- Data collected from 23 campuses in 2007

- Responses from approximately 8,400 professionals and from nearly 24,000 students
PSRI: Five Dimensions

- Measures explore 5 dimensions of campus climate:
  - (1) Striving for excellence
  - (2) Cultivating personal and academic integrity
  - (3) Contributing to a larger community
  - (4) Taking seriously the perspectives of others
  - (5) Developing competence in ethical and moral reasoning

- Also includes measures for types and frequency of activities and experiences in which students engaged

- Because both students and professionals responded to similar survey items, comparisons of how different types of individuals viewed the campus climate are possible

- Includes some short answer responses so mixed methods studies (QUAN⇒qual), as well as quantitative studies, are possible
University of Iowa
REACH Program Study
Realizing Educational and Career Hopes

The University of Iowa REACH Program is a two-year, transition certificate program for students with multiple intellectual, cognitive, and learning disabilities. Courses, campus life, and career preparation assist students in reaching their full potential.
REACH Program Study

- **Target:** Young adults with intellectual, cognitive, and learning disabilities

- **Data:** Collecting three waves until now (2011, 2013, 2013)

- **Application:** With pretest and posttest, comparing with Wabash data
Current CRUE Research Projects & Becoming Involved
Learning More About Quantitative & Qualitative Research Methods
Spring 2014 Research Methods Course Offerings

- Introductory Courses
  - 07X:150  Introduction to Educational Research

- Qualitative Courses
  - 07B: 373  Qualitative Research Design and Methods
  - 07B:392  Mixed Methods Research

- Quantitative Courses
  - 07B:206  Research Process and Design
Fall 2014 Research Methods Course Offerings (Anticipated)

- Introductory Courses
  - 07X:150  Introduction to Educational Research

- Quantitative Courses
  - 07B:206  Research Process and Design
  - 034:214  Intro to Sociological Data Analysis
The SOC offers short-term consulting on statistical data analysis and training for College of Education faculty, staff, and students at no charge.

http://www.education.uiowa.edu/centers/stat_outreach/short-courses